

Dear Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the following two bills:

- **SB 16 – AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME.**
 - o While the title of the bill sounds like something we should all want to support, the contents of the bill will do little to accomplish what it claims to be for.
- **HB 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.**

These bills will accomplish nothing in the supposed goal of reducing gun violence, and will only serve to hinder law-abiding gun owners – just like many of the other bills that have passed in recent years **with no impact on crime**.

In 1994, the federal government enacted a federal “assault weapons ban” with a clause that its effectiveness would be reviewed after 10 years to determine whether the ban should continue. **It was found to be entirely ineffective** by fact-based research, and was not extended beyond the initial 10 years

The State of Connecticut already has a similar law in place. **It has not been proven effective**, and yet the state wants to double-down and expand it. I would like you to consider the following points, and ask yourself whether the contents of these bills actually aim to reduce gun violence, or if **they are simply another stepping stone to the State government’s end goal of removing all firearms from the hands of the public**:

- **The overwhelming majority of all firearm homicides are committed with handguns**, yet handguns are never the target of these bills. Upwards of 95% of gun deaths involve a handgun, not a rifle or shotgun.
- Per CDC studies, rates of **defensive** gun use outpace homicide rates by **over ten times**. Removing guns from law-abiding citizens leaves us all vulnerable, and will result in more successful crime by people who won’t follow these newly-proposed laws anyway.
- There are widely-available plans for inexpensive 3D Printers that could allow criminals to quickly and easily circumvent these gun laws and produce their own firearms with little effort or cost. Much like taking a single tool away from a mechanic won’t stop him

from repairing a car, **taking a single method of crime away from a criminal won't stop them from committing crime.** We are not addressing the root problem with these bills.

- There are over 300,000 pistol permit holders in Connecticut. They are more law-abiding than our own police force. The process for acquiring a pistol permit in Connecticut is one of the most difficult in the country, background checks are already required for any firearm ownership transfer to any CT resident – **therefore any “straw purchasing” that HB5416 aims to prevent with a new law is ALREADY illegal with existing laws.**
- Ned Lamont claims we “cannot be tough on crime if we are not tough on guns,” yet 70% of the firearm offenses committed in the state are met with reduced sentences. **This proves that these anti-gun bills are not about being tough on crime.**

Looking at the facts, it becomes clear to see that **these bills are not written in the interest of reducing gun crime.** They are simply taking yet another step toward completely removing firearms from law-abiding citizens who would never use them to cause harm. Criminals will continue to be able to operate normally, and law-abiding gun owners will be left with no reasonable self-defense against them.

Our incredible country was built upon a foundation that kept the power in the hands of the people – yet these bills have little support from the public and massive opposition from the public. Allowing them to pass would be doing a disservice to the public.

Finally, I would like to mention my support for the following raised bills:

- **SB 388 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON’S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE**
- **HB 5415 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES**

Thank you,

Brandon Watson
Salem, CT